

THE GAMBLER . E2 5c
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Location.

Waddi Ghalilla UAE.

Drive into Wadi Litibah after crossing over the dam in Ghalilla. Across from the remote surveillance camera tower and located at the "second tier" of cliffs is a wall set at an angle to your line of vision rising maybe 80mtrs maximum. A well defined ledge provides a safe and convenient top out for the crag. Access to this ledge is by rock climbing only! To gain the foot of the crag scramble up the descent gully used for walking off the shady circus routes. This is almost directly across from the camera tower. Refer to UAE Rock Climbing Guide book, page 32.

General.

The Gambler is the second route on the crag. An access route to the top out ledge was established to place anchors for cleaning. A ground up attempt in July 2009 was abandoned due to large slabs of loose rock and temperature. Cleaning of the route was not straight forward because of the overhangs at the top of the corner, for this reason only the first pitch has received any attention.

The climbing on this route is not particularly difficult despite its bold appearance however protection is less than ideal making it a more nerve testing objective than anything else.

Description.

Pitch 1. 30mtrs E2 5c.

Start out to the left of a direct line up the corner at a broad crack. Stand on a narrow ledge and move up the groove where very small wires may offer some protection. Move delicately out to the right where a piton used for rope direction is placed. This marks the top of the pyramidal block in the lower section of the pitch. A crux move follows up the small overhang, continue to some better placements. Move out left up the groove, poor protection in this area. A short section of easy ground is marked with a second piton before the steeper corner crack is interrupted by a large hanging block, The Gambler! The block sounds as hollow as the head of any individual attempting the route. Avoid placing any gear behind the block! A wide stretch to a positive hold and a mantel move puts you on the top of the block and at the belay stance.

Pitch 2. 20mtrs E1 5b.

The second pitch had received no cleaning at the time of the first ascent! The narrow belay ledge is directly in the line of fire however no substantial rock was removed, a point that may well be argued by the second on that occasion.

Climb directly up the corner crack, sustained climbing for the grade.

A direct finish up through the overhangs was not an option in winter 2011.

The great escape out right is exposed and delicate, see black line on photo.

Move around onto ledges with good rock and belay.

Scramble up the remaining easy ground to the top out ledge. Stakes are placed here from the cleaning, Note 60mtr rope will NOT reach the ground from here.



The great escape out right.



Ralph climbing the awkward groove.
Looking down from the hanging stance of the first belay.



Looking down the second pitch

Descent Route

Walk over 50mtrs from top of the gambler where an absail station is set up again with steel angle bar, inspect before use! Descend 25 mtrs to a narrow ledge where the anchor (4 petons) is located a little to the left. Note , you will first encounter a fixed rope for a traverse with its own anchor ,ignore this, continue down a short distance , a short section of free hang will indicate the correct ledge.

Double up the rope for a 50mtr absail to the floor, careful not to dislodge any loose rock.

A technical and hard direct finish awaits anyone brave /able enough on this corner! All welcome!